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APPLICATION NO.	FILING DATE	FIRST NAMED INVENTOR	ATTORNEY DOCKET NO.	CONFIRMATION NO.
10/806,894	03/23/2004	Larry S. Eoff	2001-IP-005267U1P2	2392
71407	7590	12/28/2007	EXAMINER	
ROBERT A. KENT			FIGUEROA, JOHN J	
P.O. BOX 1431			ART UNIT	PAPER NUMBER
DUNCAN, OK 73536			1796	
			NOTIFICATION DATE	DELIVERY MODE
			12/28/2007	ELECTRONIC

Please find below and/or attached an Office communication concerning this application or proceeding.

The time period for reply, if any, is set in the attached communication.

Notice of the Office communication was sent electronically on above-indicated "Notification Date" to the following e-mail address(es):

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Office Action Summary

Application No.

10/806,894

Applicant(s)

EOFF ET AL.

Examiner

John J. Figueroa

Art Unit

1796

-- The MAILING DATE of this communication appears on the cover sheet with the correspondence address --

Period for Reply

A SHORTENED STATUTORY PERIOD FOR REPLY IS SET TO EXPIRE 3 MONTH(S) OR THIRTY (30) DAYS, WHICHEVER IS LONGER, FROM THE MAILING DATE OF THIS COMMUNICATION.

- Extensions of time may be available under the provisions of 37 CFR 1.136(a). In no event, however, may a reply be timely filed after SIX (6) MONTHS from the mailing date of this communication.
- If NO period for reply is specified above, the maximum statutory period will apply and will expire SIX (6) MONTHS from the mailing date of this communication.
- Failure to reply within the set or extended period for reply will, by statute, cause the application to become ABANDONED (35 U.S.C. § 133). Any reply received by the Office later than three months after the mailing date of this communication, even if timely filed, may reduce any earned patent term adjustment. See 37 CFR 1.704(b).

Status

- 1) ☒ Responsive to communication(s) filed on 11 October 2007.
- 2a) ☒ This action is **FINAL**. 2b) ☐ This action is non-final.
- 3) ☐ Since this application is in condition for allowance except for formal matters, prosecution as to the merits is closed in accordance with the practice under *Ex parte Quayle*, 1935 C.D. 11, 453 O.G. 213.

Disposition of Claims

- 4) ☒ Claim(s) 1-38 is/are pending in the application.
- 4a) Of the above claim(s) 7 and 11-38 is/are withdrawn from consideration.
- 5) ☐ Claim(s) _____ is/are allowed.
- 6) ☒ Claim(s) 1-6 and 8-10 is/are rejected.
- 7) ☐ Claim(s) _____ is/are objected to.
- 8) ☐ Claim(s) _____ are subject to restriction and/or election requirement.

Application Papers

- 9) ☐ The specification is objected to by the Examiner.
- 10) ☐ The drawing(s) filed on _____ is/are: a) ☐ accepted or b) ☐ objected to by the Examiner.
Applicant may not request that any objection to the drawing(s) be held in abeyance. See 37 CFR 1.85(a).
Replacement drawing sheet(s) including the correction is required if the drawing(s) is objected to. See 37 CFR 1.121(d).
- 11) ☐ The oath or declaration is objected to by the Examiner. Note the attached Office Action or form PTO-152.

Priority under 35 U.S.C. § 119

- 12) ☐ Acknowledgment is made of a claim for foreign priority under 35 U.S.C. § 119(a)-(d) or (f).
- a) ☐ All b) ☐ Some * c) ☐ None of:
- ☐ Certified copies of the priority documents have been received.
 - ☐ Certified copies of the priority documents have been received in Application No. _____.
 - ☐ Copies of the certified copies of the priority documents have been received in this National Stage application from the International Bureau (PCT Rule 17.2(a)).

* See the attached detailed Office action for a list of the certified copies not received.

Attachment(s)

- ☐ Notice of References Cited (PTO-892)
- ☐ Notice of Draftsperson's Patent Drawing Review (PTO-948)
- ☒ Information Disclosure Statement(s) (PTO/SB/08)
Paper No(s)/Mail Date 10/26/07 and 11/28/07.
- ☐ Interview Summary (PTO-413)
Paper No(s)/Mail Date. _____
- ☐ Notice of Informal Patent Application
- ☐ Other: _____

DETAILED ACTION

Response to Amendment

2. The 35 U.S.C. §102 rejection of claims 1-6 and 8-10 as anticipated by PCT Application Publication Number WO 03/056130 A1 to Couillet et al., hereinafter 'Couillet', is maintained for the same reasons previously set forth in items 3 and 5 on pages 2 and 3 of the Office Action of July 12, 2007 (hereinafter 'OA')).

Response to Arguments

The 35 U.S.C. §102 Rejection over Couillet (item 8 of FOA)

3. Applicant's arguments in the response to OA filed October 11, 2007 (hereinafter 'Response') with respect to the 35 U.S.C. 102(e) rejection of claims 1-6 and 8-10 as anticipated by Couillet have been fully considered but deemed unpersuasive.

Applicant's arguments in Response regarding the "allowing" step in independent claim 1 requiring the relative permeability modifier (RPM) to attach onto "a surface *within* the subterranean formation", as opposed to a surface of the subterranean formation," are misguided. A person of ordinary skill in the art would interpret the claim phrase "surface of the formation" to encompass any surface of a subterranean formation, including the *inner* surfaces of a well or other subterranean formation.

Moreover, Couillet clearly discloses a method for recovering hydrocarbons by providing an aqueous viscoelastic fracturing fluid and injecting said fluid into formation rocks to fracture said rocks. (See, e.g., item 17 on page 9 of the Office Action mailed July 3, 2006 citing page 4, line 10 to page 5, line 22 of Couillet, which discloses this injection process) As stated previously in item 5 of OA, because Couillet adds the same RPM polymer compound to a formation as encompassed by the method of the instant claims, then "at least a portion" of the permeability of the formation must inherently be "attaching" to the formation as disclosed in Couillet. A person skilled in the art would interpret the phrase "attaching to the formation" to encompass attaching to, e.g., the surface of a formation rock, which, of course, is a surface *within* the subterranean formation.

Thus, the instant claims remain anticipated by Couillet.

Conclusion

4. **THIS ACTION IS MADE FINAL.** Applicant is reminded of the extension of time policy as set forth in 37 CFR 1.136(a).

A shortened statutory period for reply to this final action is set to expire **THREE MONTHS** from the mailing date of this action. In the event a first reply is filed within **TWO MONTHS** of the mailing date of this final action and the advisory action is not mailed until after the end of the **THREE-MONTH** shortened statutory period, then the shortened statutory period will expire on the date the advisory action is mailed, and any extension fee pursuant to 37 CFR 1.136(a) will be calculated from the mailing date of

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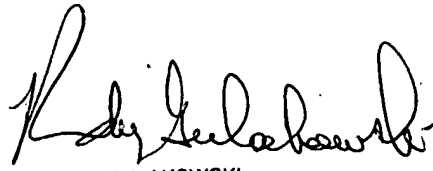
the advisory action. In no event, however, will the statutory period for reply expire later than SIX MONTHS from the mailing date of this final action.

Any inquiry concerning this communication or earlier communications from the examiner should be directed to John J. Figueroa whose telephone number is (571) 272-8916. The examiner can normally be reached on Monday-Thursday 8:00-6:00pm.

If attempts to reach the examiner by telephone are unsuccessful, the examiner's supervisor, Randy Gulakowski can be reached on (571) 272-1302. The fax phone number for the organization where this application or proceeding is assigned is 571-273-8300.

Information regarding the status of an application may be obtained from the Patent Application Information Retrieval (PAIR) system. Status information for published applications may be obtained from either Private PAIR or Public PAIR. Status information for unpublished applications is available through Private PAIR only. For more information about the PAIR system, see <http://pair-direct.uspto.gov>. Should you have questions on access to the Private PAIR system, contact the Electronic Business Center (EBC) at 866-217-9197 (toll-free). If you would like assistance from a USPTO Customer Service Representative or access to the automated information system, call 800-786-9199 (IN USA OR CANADA) or 571-272-1000.

JJF/RAG


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